



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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# SUPERINTENDENT LUNA PROPOSES TO INCREASE SCHOOLS BUDGET, FULLY FUND TEACHER SALARIES

BOISE – Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna proposed increasing state funding for Idaho’s public schools by nearly 5 percent in fiscal year 2013, including full funding for teacher salaries and the Students Come First reforms.

Superintendent Luna presented his proposed FY2013 Public Schools Budget to the Joint Finance-Appropriation Committee (JFAC) on Thursday.

“This year, I propose increased funding for Idaho’s public schools by nearly 5 percent. Through this budget, we can fully fund teacher salaries, add \$38 million for pay-for-performance bonuses, and provide another \$15 million for advanced technology to support teachers as they work to raise achievement and provide equal access for all students,” Superintendent Luna said.

Last year, Idaho passed comprehensive education reform known as Students Come First. Through these laws, the state reformed its education system and began spending the money it currently has differently and investing in strategic areas to make every classroom a 21st Century Classroom, ensure every student has access to a highly effective teacher every year in school, and give parents immediate access to understandable information about their child’s school and district.

The FY2013 Public Schools Budget continues to fund key components of Students Come First, such as the Dual Credit for Early Completers Program and advanced classroom technology in every classroom.

In addition, it provides funding for two other major components of Students Come First: pay-for-performance bonuses for Idaho teachers and laptops for every high school teacher and principal.

The laptops are the first step in implementing a one-to-one ratio of students and teachers to mobile computing devices in every high school across the state. Teachers will receive devices in September 2012. The state will begin deploying devices to high school students in September 2013.

Based on a recommendation from the Technology Task Force, the State Department of Education will be deploying devices to one-third – or about 27,000 – high students statewide, beginning in 2013. The Department has asked districts to submit letters of interest if they would like to be in the first one-third of schools to receive devices statewide.

To date, the Department has received letters of interest from 73 districts and charter schools, representing 139 schools and more than 57,000 students statewide. This represents two-thirds of high school students across Idaho.

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Here are the highlights of Superintendent Luna's proposed FY2013 Public Schools Budget:

- 4.7 percent general fund increase for Idaho's public schools, which is in line with Governor Otter's budget recommendation
- \$4 million to fund growth in student enrollment
- \$19.4 million, or 2.38 percent, increase in state funding for teacher and administrator salaries to offset the adjustment that was scheduled for FY2013
- \$38.8 million in pay-for-performance bonuses for Idaho teachers
- \$9 million in advanced classroom technology for all grades
- \$2.5 million to begin implementing the one-to-one initiative in high schools by providing a laptop to every high school teacher and principal
- \$4 million for professional development to help teachers integrate technology in the classroom

To learn more about Students Come First, visit [www.studentscomefirst.org](http://www.studentscomefirst.org).

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**[Editor's note:** Superintendent Luna is scheduled to present to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Education Committees at 3 p.m. MT on Tuesday, January 31 to provide an update on the implementation of Students Come First and the work of the Technology Task Force.]